

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05137 151800Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15  
STR-07 CEA-01 PA-01 /100 W  
-----122406 160510Z /23

R 151745Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5498  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05137

ALSO FOR USEC; GENEVA FOR MTN; PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETRD, EC, BE  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MTN IMPRESSIONS

1. AN EMBASSY OFFICER HAD A CONVERSATION THIS WEEK WITH  
PIETER DE VLEESHAUWER, MTN DESK OFFICER IN THE MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). DE VLEESHAUWER HAD A FEW  
COMMENTS ON GENERAL BELGIAN AND EC TRENDS WHICH MAY BE  
OF INTEREST, I.E.:

A. AS REPORTED BY COPENHAGEN 1607, THE 113 COMMITTEE  
IS INDEED SPLIT BETWEEN THOSE WHO WOULD REDUCE THE EC  
OFFER NOW TO MATCH OURS (FRANCE, U.K., ITALY AND BELGIUM  
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LEANING) AND THOSE WHO WOULD FIRST REQUEST IMPROVEMENT  
(FRG, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS). DE VLEESCHAUWER BELIEVES  
THAT THE FIRST GROUP WILL ULTIMATELY WIN OUT.

B. ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MTN ON THE MARGINS OF THE 113  
COMMITTEE IS FLAGGING, MAINLY DUE TO THE FALL OF THE  
DOLLAR. WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM ALSO CONTINUES IN THE

RANKS OF WORKING LEVEL EUROPEAN CIVIL SERVANTS WITH KENNEDY ROUND EXPERIENCE ABOUT US PURPOSES IN THE MTN AND THE RELIABILITY OF ANY COMMITMENT OUR NEGOTIATORS MAY MAKE THERE. WE EXPLAINED PROVISIONS OF THE 1974 TRADE ACT WHICH MAKE A REPEAT OF THE ASP EPISODE UNLIKELY; DE VLEESHAUWER TOOK NOTE AND SAID THE U.S. SHOULD PUBLICIZE THESE POINTS MORE THAN HE BELIEVES WE HAVE SO FAR.

C. BELGIUM'S MAJOR OBJECTION TO THE US TARIFF OFFER CONCERNS OUR PROPOSAL TO REDUCE FURTHER CERTAIN LOW (I.E. BELOW 5 PERCENT) TARIFFS ON SEMI-PROCESSED ITEMS. BELGIAN INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY THE METALLURGICAL SECTOR, WANTS THESE LOW TARIFFS RETAINED TO DISCOURAGE INSTALLATION OF COMPETING PROCESSING FACILITIES IN RAW MATERIAL-PRODUCING LDC'S.

D. BELGIAN INDUSTRY INTEREST IN THE MTN THUS REMAINS PRIMARILY DEFENSIVE. THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE PROTECTIONIST PRESSURE FROM OTHER SECTORS, NOTABLY TEXTILES. THIS PRESSURE IS NORMALLY CHanneled THROUGH THE FEDERATION DES ENTREPRISES DE BELGIQUE (FEB). A COMMON THEME HEARD FROM THE FEB IS THAT MOST OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES' CONCESSIONS TO EACH OTHER WILL WIND UP BENEFITTING MOST THE BRAZILS, TAIWANS AND SOUTH KOREAS OF THE WORLD. AS MATTERS STAND NOW, DE VLEESHAUWER  
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SAID, THE MFA IS THE ONLY STRONG VOICE IN BELGIUM FOR CONTINUED TRADE LIBERALIZATION.

2. COMMENT. DE VLEESHAUWER IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WITH NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN TRADE OR COMMERCIAL WORK. HE IS NOT OVERLY INTERESTED IN HIS CURRENT JOB AND HIS COMMENTS SHOULD BE READ WITH THIS IN MIND. NEVERTHELESS, THEY DO SEEM TO CONVEY A FAIRLY ACCURATE VIEW OF THE GENERAL BELGIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MTN, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. CHAMBERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC TRENDS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** BELGIAN MTN IMPRESSIONS  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EC, BE, MTN, (DE VLEESHAUWER, PIETER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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